



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **FACT SHEET**

# **SANDERS JOINED BY RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION TO LAUNCH NEW WATER CONSERVATION EFFORT**

## **RESTAURANTS SET TO SERVE WATER ONLY “UPON REQUEST”**

The San Diego Chapter of the California Restaurant Association has joined Mayor Sanders and the San Diego County Water Authority to launch a new water conservation education program in local restaurants. Under the new program, local restaurants will serve water only upon request, rather than automatically setting tables with filled water glasses. The program also includes the placement of information cards on restaurant tables and in check folders presented to diners after their meals.

The new program is part of Mayor Sanders continuing effort to educate everyone in San Diego about the importance of conserving water in our region. The Mayor is promoting water conservation efforts because of the very real potential for reductions in our region’s water supply in the coming year. The Mayor has consistently urged San Diegans to voluntarily conserve water wherever possible. In lieu of mandatory conservation efforts that may very well be required later, the Mayor is once again calling upon San Diegans to do everything possible now to conserve water.

## **WATER SUPPLY CHALLENGES MAKE CONSERVATION IMPERATIVE FOR SAN DIEGO**

Potential water supply problems for the region are based on a complicated and evolving set of factors including: a prolonged drought along the Colorado River; a case in Federal court regarding our water supplies from the Bay Delta in Northern California; and weak rainfall amounts over the past several years.

Because of its very real potential impact on the local economy, Mayor Sanders is taking a thoughtful and deliberate approach to this issue and not rushing to impose mandatory conservation measures immediately. But the Mayor does want San Diegans to know that mandatory conservation efforts are a very real possibility depending on developments associated with the various factors. In the meantime, San Diegans must do everything they can to conserve water voluntarily.

The Mayor is urging everyone in San Diego to conserve at least 20 gallons a day. The goal of all these efforts is to keep as much water in storage as possible to help with the region's water needs in the next year.

The Mayor's is calling upon public agencies to do their part, by:

- Reducing irrigation cycles on landscaped areas by 1-3 minutes or eliminating one entire irrigation cycle from weekly watering schedules.
- Refraining from watering landscapes during the day, when losses to evaporation are higher.
- Scaling back schedules for cleaning streets, vehicles and/or buildings and considering washing fleet vehicles at commercial car washes that recycle water.
- Conducting comprehensive checks for and repairing any leaks in water systems.
- Considering native California-friendly plants and artificial turf for new or rehabilitated landscapes rather than new grass or high-water-use plants in public landscape spaces.
- Turning off decorative fountains or scaling back their schedule for refills.
- Using reclaimed water for irrigation, decorative fountains or other uses where feasible.

The Mayor is also calling upon residents and businesses to do their part by making sure that:

- Irrigation and garden watering should be pared back and done with either a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle, a hand-held container, or a drip irrigation system.
- Everyone should be mindful of their water consumption everywhere around the house – combining three smaller loads of laundry into one and making sure the water isn't running as dishes are being washed for instance.
- Washing vehicles should be limited to short rinses with hand-held hoses equipped with positive shut-off nozzles or washing done by commercial car washes or commercial service stations using high pressure washing equipment.
- Residents should carefully monitor water levels to avoid overfilling swimming pools, spas, ponds and artificial lakes.
- Homeowners should use a broom – instead of water – to clean sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios or other paved areas.
- Ornamental fountains and water features should be outfitted with re-circulating pumps to maximize water use.